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# SERVICE NEWS

PUBLISHED BY THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The NEWS is intended to inform staff members of developments within the Service, and is not for distribution to others.

Benton, Miss Mildred

April 1, 1940

## YOUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT SAYS --

Not long ago, your Washington Correspondent took his feet off the desk, brushed away the cobwebs, and took a trip (believe it or not) into the field to see what he could see. Well, he saw plenty, but at one particular place.....

It was raining hard and the fellows in the field office felt it was a good opportunity to show your Washington Correspondent some real erosion. There was a certain short trip, they said, on which they had been taking the butchers and bakers and candlestick-makers of the community. Your Washington Correspondent consented (no matter how reluctantly) to take the trip himself.

So into a car he got with two of the men from this field office and another b.h. from Washington, and off they sped into the countryside. Did I say sped? Sixty per may not be fast in this day of hustle and bustle; and your Washington Correspondent is neither old-fashioned nor a sissy about speed. But with the needle flickering back and forth across sixty on those greasy, crooked, hilly roads your Washington Correspondent was downright scared and doesn't care who knows it.

Of course, the man behind the wheel was a good driver. He had to be. He talked all the time and did plenty of pointing too. First with his left hand; then with his right; and finally, (to the frozen horror of your Washington Correspondent) with both of them at once. Worst of all, he carried on a running conversation with the parties in the back seat and he turned his head around to do it. There were a couple of nice, soft, cozy shoulders on that road, just waiting. How we stayed off of them, or rather, out of them, your Correspondent will never know.

Well, there's a moral to this story, and it's not very hard to see. Suppose your Washington Correspondent had been a banker, or a merchant, or a congressman, or a newspaper editor, or a farmer. If his reactions were anything like normal (using your Washington Correspondent as a guinea pig) he'd have been plenty wrought up by the time that little trip was over. Your Washington Correspondent didn't see a nickel's worth of erosion; he was too busy watching the road, hanging on, and framing his last words for the folks back home. He didn't give a darn about erosion. All he wanted was to get back where he started with life and limb intact. As a matter of fact, after the first couple of hair-raising moments, he had built up a definite resentment about the whole darn thing. It irked him plenty to think his precious neck was being risked so blandly. The whole purpose of the trip was defeated and the Service probably suffered more than it profited.

Good public relations certainly ought to include some consideration for the other fellow. When an outsider gets into a Service car, he puts his life in the hands of the Service and he likes to feel, naturally, that it's in safe hands, or careful hands at least. Every time the Service takes people for a tour or an inspection trip, or some other mission, the car ought to be driven by someone who has nothing to do but drive. It's not merely a matter of safety--it's a matter of public good-will.

And that's what we need plenty of.

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A reader of the News makes a very good point about the Washington Correspondent item on "planning" in the last issue. He quotes Mr. William F. Musbach, writing on the subject of land-use planning:

"Planners have long recognized the futility of pushing 'planning' too far ahead of 'action'. Since the concepts of land-use planning are extremely dynamic, it is not expedient to acquire detailed and costly information relative to a region far in advance of the use for such material. Obtaining intensive data concerning the possibilities of reforestation before there is any likelihood of a planting program, is a case in point. By the time funds are available, changes in critical factors, as might result from forest fires, may have made the initial inventory and classification of little value."

In the planning story told by your Washington Correspondent, there was no intention of disparaging the importance of planning. It was the intent merely to illustrate a very common failing in the misdirection of energies in planning. To plan where a job is to be done and to plan with reference to the specific character of the job--to "time" planning and operations--is of the very essence of the planning job.

"Instead of planning 50 farms on which apparently there is no prospect of immediate action," says the reader of the News, "the friend of the Washington Correspondent should have been directed to points where his planning would have become useful by providing the foundation for immediate action. The fault is not attributable to 'planning' but to a lack of it."

Agreed. As your Washington Correspondent has already said: Planning is simply a means to an end; and not an end in itself.

#### FRIENDS OF THE LAND

Friends of the Land, a private society to combat soil erosion, water waste, and human displacements and distress was organized in Washington, D. C., March 22 and 23.

The aims of the society are to promote the welfare of mankind by preventing the destruction of the land by wind and water erosion, the depletion of forest, grass, and other native cover, the siltation of reservoirs, waterways, and harbors, the exhaustion of underground and surface water supplies, the raising of flood levels, and the depletion of wildlife resources.

The society will encourage the practice of land and water conservation by individuals, cooperative groups, and public agencies, and will promote legislative and other measures tending to the accomplishment of these objects.

The society plans to get out a magazine, The Land, to organize a library, and to promote educational and research activities. It will cooperate with existing conservation societies and will enlist young people, especially unemployed youth, in a moral equivalent for war--war on erosion.

Morris L. Cooke, former administrator of R.E.A. and Chairman of the Great Plains Committee, was elected president. Russell Lord was named editor of the society's magazine. Charles W. Collier will be executive director.

Sponsors of the organization include among many others Dr. Albert Einstein, Dr. Charles E. Beard, Rexford G. Tugwell, Dr. Paul Sears, Aldo Leopold, Dr. Isaiah Bowman, Stuart Chase, J. N. (Ding) Darling, and Fiorello H. LaGuardia.

Employees of the Service are free to join the organization if they wish to do so. Inquiries about subscription should be addressed to Charles W. Collier, 312 Denrike Building, Vermont Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.

SCS RADIO PROGRAM HONORED:

"Fortunes Washed Away," Region 3's dramatized radio series, has been selected as a representative educational program to be demonstrated before the Eleventh Annual Institute for Education by Radio.

The meeting will be held April 29, 30, and May 1 at Columbus, Ohio. WLW, Cincinnati, is sending its dramatic staff, sound technician, announcer, and organist to reenact "The Joyce Kilmer Memorial Forest," a program given recently. The demonstration will be held before the entire group, composed of radio workers and educators from all over the country.

Following the pseudo-broadcast, Joseph Ries, WLW educational director, and Ewing Jones of Region 3's information division, will discuss the results that have been obtained from this series of radio programs.

CHIEF TO MEXICO

H. H. Bennett has been selected as a member of the coordinating committee of the Pan-American Conference on Indian Life, to be held at Patzcuaro, Mexico, April 14-24. Indian problems will be discussed at the conference.

KENTUCKY PASSES DISTRICTS LAW

Kentucky became the 37th State to authorize organization of soil conservation districts with enactment, in late February, of enabling legislation by the General Assembly at Frankfort. Governor Keen Johnson signed the bill March 8.

The Kentucky legislation follows closely the Department's standard act. Major exception is that 90 percent of the property owners within a district, owning 80 percent of the land, must vote favorably on land-use regulations before regulations can be adopted by the supervisors.

The State soil conservation committee is to be comprised of the State director of extension work, the State conservation commissioner, the State director of agriculture, the State director of vocational education, and one farmer to be appointed by the Governor. Authority is given the Secretary of Agriculture to designate a representative to serve on the committee as a non-voting member.

OPEN FORUM

Editor, Service News: The article under "Open Forum" in March 15 issue of the Service News by G. H., complaining about the number

of reports the field men have to make appealed strongly to me. For some time, I have been endeavoring to accomplish something in the way of reducing the number of forms and reports with which the Service is concerned. Forms call for reports and reports create forms.

We have endeavored, by setting up in each region a Forms Committee, to bring about a reduction in the number of forms in use and a consolidation and simplification of those necessary. Recently, the Secretary appointed a Departmental Committee for the Study of Internal and External Reports and Forms, calling upon each Bureau and Service of the Department to analyze its internal forms for the purpose of elimination and simplification, and to report to a Departmental Committee on all reports and forms required outside of the Bureaus and Services.

Each region has been requested to advise Washington with respect to reports going outside the Service and an analysis will be made of the material submitted by the regions. It is hoped that this analysis will bring about certain eliminations, consolidations and simplifications.

A general survey which I made sometime ago led me to believe by far the greater portion of reports and forms are of field origin and are required by field offices rather than by the Washington office. I am hoping that each region will use its Forms Committee by broadening its scope to include reports for the purpose of making a thorough analysis of both forms and reports. If this is done, I am sure the situation will be greatly relieved. Signed: Samuel Goodacre.

#### LEGISLATION

The Agricultural Appropriation Bill was approved by the Senate as recommended by the Senate Appropriation Committee. Details are outlined in Service News for March 15. The Bill now goes to conference.

Interesting legislation included a bill by Mrs. Rogers (H.R. 2569) to create a Civil Service board of appeals, and H.R. 8847 by Mr. Pierce of Oregon providing for a preliminary examination and survey for run-off and soil erosion prevention on the watershed of the Silvies River in Oregon.

#### PUBLICATIONS

The 8th in the series of regional popular bulletins has just come off the press under the title "Crops Against the Wind in the Southern Great Plains." Written by Glenn K. Rule, it describes soil erosion conditions and conservation practices in the so-called Dust Bowl.

"Erosion and Related Land-Use Conditions on the University Lake Watershed, Chapel Hill, N. C." by Turner C. Bass and Irving L. Martin and "Erosion and Related Land-Use Conditions on the Spartanburg Municipal Reservoir Watershed, S. C." by the same authors have just been released.

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"Ten Billion Little Dams," issued in 1936, has recently been re-issued in revised form.

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Manuscripts en route to publication, as of March 25, are:

Kenneth Davis - "Farms the Rains Will Not Take." Sent to U.S.D.A.

V. E. Davison - "Shrubs for Wildlife on Farms in the Southeast." Sent to U.S.D.A.

C. R. Enlow - "Review and Discussion of Literature Pertinent to Crop Rotations for Erodible Soils." Sent to G.P.O.

Free, Browning, and Musgrave - "Relative Infiltration and Related Physical Characteristics of Certain Soils." Sent to G.P.O.

Happ, Rittenhouse, and Dobson - "Some Principles of Accelerated Stream and Valley Sedimentation as Exemplified in Lafayette County, Miss." In page proof.

Henry Hopp - "Methods of Distinguishing Between the Shipmast and Common Forms of Black Locust on Long Island, N. Y." Sent to U.S.D.A.

Kohnke, Dreibelbis, and Davidson - "A Survey and Discussion of Lysimeters and a Bibliography on Their Construction and Performance." In galley proof.

James C. Marr - "Snow Surveying." In galley proof.

Carl Rohwer - "Putting Down and Developing Wells for Irrigation." In page proof.

Rohwer and Lewis - "Small Irrigation Pumping Plants." Sent to U.S.D.A.

G. K. Rule - "Toward Soil Security on the Northern Great Plains." Sent to U.S.D.A.

Rule and Netterstrom - "Soil Defense in the Pacific Southwest." Sent to G.P.O.

Schwendiman, Sackman, and Hafenrichter - "Processing Seed of Grasses and Other Plants to Remove Awns and Appendages." In galley proof.

F. E. Staebner - "Supplemental Irrigation." Sent to G.P.O.

S.C.S. - "Use the Land and Save the Soil." Sent to G.P.O.

Erosion and Related Land-Use Conditions on the:

Conestoga Area, Pa. - Bonsteel and Bass - Sent to U.S.D.A.

Hell and Mud Creeks Demonstration Project, Miss. - D. T. Webb - In galley proof.

Lake Crook Watershed, Lamar County, Texas - Harvey Oakes - Sent to G.P.O.

Lake Michie Watershed, N. C. - Martin and Bass - In page proof.

Lloyd Shoals Reservoir Watershed, Ga. - P. H. Montgomery and others - In page proof.

Mad River Watershed, Vermont - C. H. Atkinson - Sent to G.P.O.

SCS ARTISTS WIN POSTER  
CONTEST AWARDS

A poster contest was inaugurated by the Department of Agriculture for employees in the Washington offices. The problem was to secure posters for bulletin boards and garage posting for the various organizations within the Department.

The judges were James D. LeCron, assistant to the Secretary, Chairman; P. L. Gladmon, assistant director of personnel; Morse Salisbury, acting director of information; and two persons from outside of the Department of Agriculture, one a safety specialist and one a journalist, illustrator, or advertising specialist.

Mrs. Helen S. Morley of the illustrations unit, division of information, was awarded third prize for one poster and honorable mention for another. Mrs. Morley, on the poster which received third prize, depicted a car passing another car on a hill and had as a caption DON'T LET THE WHITE LINE BE YOUR DEAD LINE."

Harry A. Nussbaum also of the illustrations unit received two honorable mentions for posters he submitted.

PLEASE FROM THE LIBRARY

Because of the increased number of lost books and periodicals, within recent months, the library requests the cooperation of every member of the Washington staff.

1. If you receive current periodicals from the library as issued, please read them promptly and return them direct to the library. Do not pass them on to a friend or office co-worker.
2. If you leave town, return borrowed publications. Do not leave them in your desk or at home.
3. If you resign from the Service, by all means, let the Library know so that all publications charged to you may be accounted for.

PRINTERS' INK

There are three articles by SCS men in Agricultural Engineering for March.

"A New Device for Laying Out Contour Lines" by L. H. Schoenleber of the research experiment station at Clarinda, Iowa, is described by the author as a mechanically-operated grade meter. Mounted on a tractor, the device indicates "on what grade the tractor is operating or on what grade off a contour it may be operating." Mr. Schoenleber says the device has proved sensitive and accurate.

Austin W. Zingg of the Bethany, Mo., research experiment station, continues his discussion in the February issue of Agricultural Engineering in an article in the March number entitled "An Analysis of Degree and Length of Slope Data as Applied to Terracing." According to the summary, "a rational equation for soil loss as affected by degree and length of slope is applied to the problem of terrace spacing and terrace effectiveness."

Under the title "Instruments for Hydrologic Research," W. H. Pomerene of the Coshocton, Ohio, research experiment station, discusses some newer, less widely known instruments available for use in the study of hydrology and meteorology. A note from the Editor states that Mr. Pomerene has compiled a list of over 200 different instruments. The mimeographed list is available without charge to members of the A.S.A.E. and to non-members at 20¢ per copy.

J. L. Haynes of the experiment station at Sussex, N. J., discusses the influence of cover crops on rainfall distribution in an article entitled "Ground Rainfall under Vegetative Canopy of Crops" in the Journal of the American Society of Agronomy for March.

In the same issue T. C. Peele of the experiment station at Clemson, S. C., discusses "Microbial Activity in Relation to Soil Aggregation."

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A resume of the meeting of the Society of American Foresters held in Columbus, Ohio, December 29-30, 1939, including abstracts of papers presented at the meeting, is published in the March issue of the Journal of Forestry. Papers presented by SCS men are:

"Climatic research and forestry," by C. W. Thornthwaite, head of the division of climatic and physiographic research.

"Influence of soil type and other site factors on the success of tree plantings for erosion control," by W. S. Ligon, soil scientist at Dayton, Ohio.

#### WILDLIFE GROUPS MEET

At the annual meeting of the Wildlife Society, held in conjunction with the Fifth North American Wildlife Conference in Washington, D. C., on March 18, Frank C. Edminster, regional biologist at Upper Darby, was elected secretary of the Society.

Warren W. Chase, regional biologist at Milwaukee, was reelected treasurer, and William R. Van Dersal of the Washington office continues as chairman of the membership committee.

Among papers presented at the Wildlife Conference were:

W. R. Van Dersal: Environmental improvement for valuable non-game animals.

Charles A. Dambach: The effect of land-use adjustments on wildlife populations in the Ohio River region.

J. A. Johnson: Quail food studies in relation to land-use in Mississippi.

Harry E. Gearhart: Farmers' approach to wildlife conservation.

Edward H. Graham of the Washington staff was a member of the program committee for the conference.

SALARY AVERAGES TABULATED

Results of a study of salaries of Federal employees, based on a sampling as of December 1937, have been announced by the Civil Service Commission. The average salary for all Federal employees was \$1,871. In the District of Columbia the average was \$2,066; outside the District, \$1,838.

A distribution for the entire Federal service showed that approximately 24% of employees fell in each of two salary ranges: \$1,000 to \$1,499 and \$2,000 to \$2,199. About 30% of employees in the District of Columbia were in a group receiving between \$1,000 and \$1,499, with 22, 12, and 7%, respectively, in the ranges from \$1,500 to \$1,799, from \$1,800 to \$1,999, and from \$2,000 to \$2,199.

Approximately 25% of employees in the District of Columbia received salaries of \$2,200, or more, compared with 17% at or above this figure outside the District.

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April 15, 1940

Benton, Miss Mildred

## YOUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT SAYS:

The Soil Conservation Service is just before having a birthday. On April 27, five years ago, the President of the United States placed his signature on the Soil Conservation Act, thus establishing the Service as a permanent bureau of the Department of Agriculture.

But, your Washington Correspondent does not intend to list here the accomplishments of the Service, nor are we going to pour praise on the attuned ears of the loyal staff. On this anniversary occasion, we happen to feel in a critical, brick-heaving mood.

We have our tomahawk out for a practice that is growing like kudzu in a Piedmont gully--but has just the opposite effect. This practice conserves nothing--least of all time and dispositions--and is a definite hindrance to our nation-wide soil conservation program.

We refer to the increasing habit of being "picayunish." Mr. Webster defines this word as "the habit of being small, of being trifling." Your Washington Correspondent defines it, in terms of the Soil Conservation Service, as "a type of mind that can't get above minor details; a state of mind that can't see the forest for the trees."

Rare indeed would be the office in the Soil Conservation Service where symptoms of this distressing malady have not manifested themselves. Often it crops forth in a reluctance to delegate responsibility to members of the staff. If, after five years, the successful operation of a division or section is dependent on one man, then that one man has been negligent in his duty to his staff.

But, "the habit of being small, of being trifling," rears its ugly head most frequently in an insistence on making changes in everything that crosses one's desk. We confess our own tendency to make what we think are improvements in things that come to our attention. We seem possessed of the idea that a failure to scribble in our own petty little additions would show a lack of alertness.

When wrong figures are given or an incorrect statement is made, the need for correction is obvious; but very often a change may be merely a reflection of the way the "corrector" has been saying it for months or years. Frequently, the "scribbler-inner" takes the author's fresh, new approach and writes it back into the old, hackneyed, trite language used since Adam was a pup.

This depressing habit of "comma-splitting" serves no useful purpose. If more of us stopped to realize how annoying it was to have carefully prepared reports and pieces slashed up by someone who has no appreciation of the arrangement of sentences or thought, there would be none of it. Picayunishness of this general description might well be labeled, "the first sign of a bureaucrat." We think a birthday is as good a time as any to look inward, to repent, and to go forth and sin no more.

#### PRESIDENT'S FOURTH REORGANIZATION PLAN

As we go to press the President's Fourth Reorganization Plan was signed. Items that affect SCS are:

"Certain functions of the Soil Conservation Service transferred.--The functions of the Soil Conservation Service in the Department of Agriculture with respect to soil and moisture conservation operations conducted on any lands under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior are transferred to the Department of the Interior and shall be administered under the direction and supervision of the Secretary of the Interior through such agency or agencies in the Department of the Interior as the Secretary shall designate."

"Transfer of Weather Bureau.--The Weather Bureau in the Department of Agriculture and its functions are transferred to the Department of Commerce and shall be administered under the direction and supervision of the Secretary of Commerce: Provided, That the Department of Agriculture may continue to make snow surveys and to conduct research concerning: (a) relationships between weather and crops, (b) long-range weather forecasting, and (c) relationships between weather and soil erosion."

The Reorganization Plan will become effective in 60 days unless disapproved by concurrent resolution.

SCIENTISTS STUDY LANDFORMS  
IN THE PIEDMONT

Soil specialists, ecologists, and geologists spent last week in the Spartanburg area of South Carolina studying and discussing findings of the climatic and physiographic research staff in the Piedmont. Paul Sears, ecologist; Charles Kellogg and C. C. Nikiforoff, soils men; Thomas Kesler and W. W. Rubey of the Geological Survey; and Helmut de Terra of the Carnegie Institution were of the group as well as SCS men and representatives of prominent universities.

D. H. Eargle's article in the April 5 issue of Science on "The Relation of Soils and Surface in the South Carolina Piedmont" suggests how current ideas on the origins of Piedmont soils must be revised in light of recent discoveries. For instance, organic material hitherto thought to be of residual origin turns out to have been transported. And there is indication that "local relief has been diminished and surface landforms softened."

OPEN FORUM

Editor, Service News: The continuing increase in the spread of the field winter cover crop practices has brought up the problem of efficient and time-saving seeding of the cover crops.

It may be of interest to the men in the Service to know that the SCS Camp Pa-8 at Lancaster, Pa., has designed and built a simple and satisfactory seeding implement to meet this very problem. This implement consists of a cyclone seeder mounted on a wheel which can be attached to a cultivator for use during the last cultivation of corn or any other cultivated crop. Its use enables one to seed the cover crop in one operation with the last cultivation. Its use also facilitates a more economical utilization of the seed as it covers the entire ground and spreads the seed low so that the common difficulty of having a considerable percentage of the grass seed getting stuck in the axil of the leaves and on the leaves of the growing plant is largely overcome.

Photographs and prints of this implement will be made available for any one in the Service upon request. Signed: Victor A. Olsen, Superintendent.

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Editor, Service News: . . . So your friend has planned fifty farms . . . I am wondering how many of these were really successful plans, thoroughly worked out with each individual farmer to meet that farmer's needs. . . . And was it a plan by which that

farmer could make a successful living for his family, and at the same time build rather than mine the soil . . . Your friend no doubt has fallen a victim of mass production. A vicious result of the prodding from higher up to reach a certain quota per area per district per man . . .

. . . This brings me around to G. H. and his pointed criticisms of statistics and reports. That has bothered me for a long time. I, too, think that the field man's job is "conserving the soil." I, too, have repeatedly made out reports and filled out blanks containing the same information, or practically the same . . . That seems to be a weakness of government work to require information on information that after a time becomes so cumbersome it is filed away and forgotten. No one has the time or inclination to dig it out. It is easier to have it done over again. Over 30 years ago I spent taxpayer's money gathering (certain) information in all of the country . . . It was filed away and I have never known of any use being made of it since.

. . . Wouldn't it be a good thing if each government employee, especially those in directional and planning positions, would pause occasionally and think if the work he was about to do or planning to have done was paid for out of his own money? Wouldn't he be inclined to think about whether the results would be worth the cost? . . . In soil conservation wouldn't it be better to concentrate on saving the soil . . . and forget some of the things that are more minor matters? . . .

I agree with L. R. The District Soil Conservationist must be a practical man who can understand the farmer's mind and talk his language. Signed: C. E. Q.

(The above are excerpts from a letter too long to be carried in its entirety. The Editor suggests that Open Forum letters be held to a maximum of 400 words, and preferably shorter, depending, of course, on the subject.)

#### REGION 3 MEETING EMPHASIZES COOPERATION ON DISTRICTS

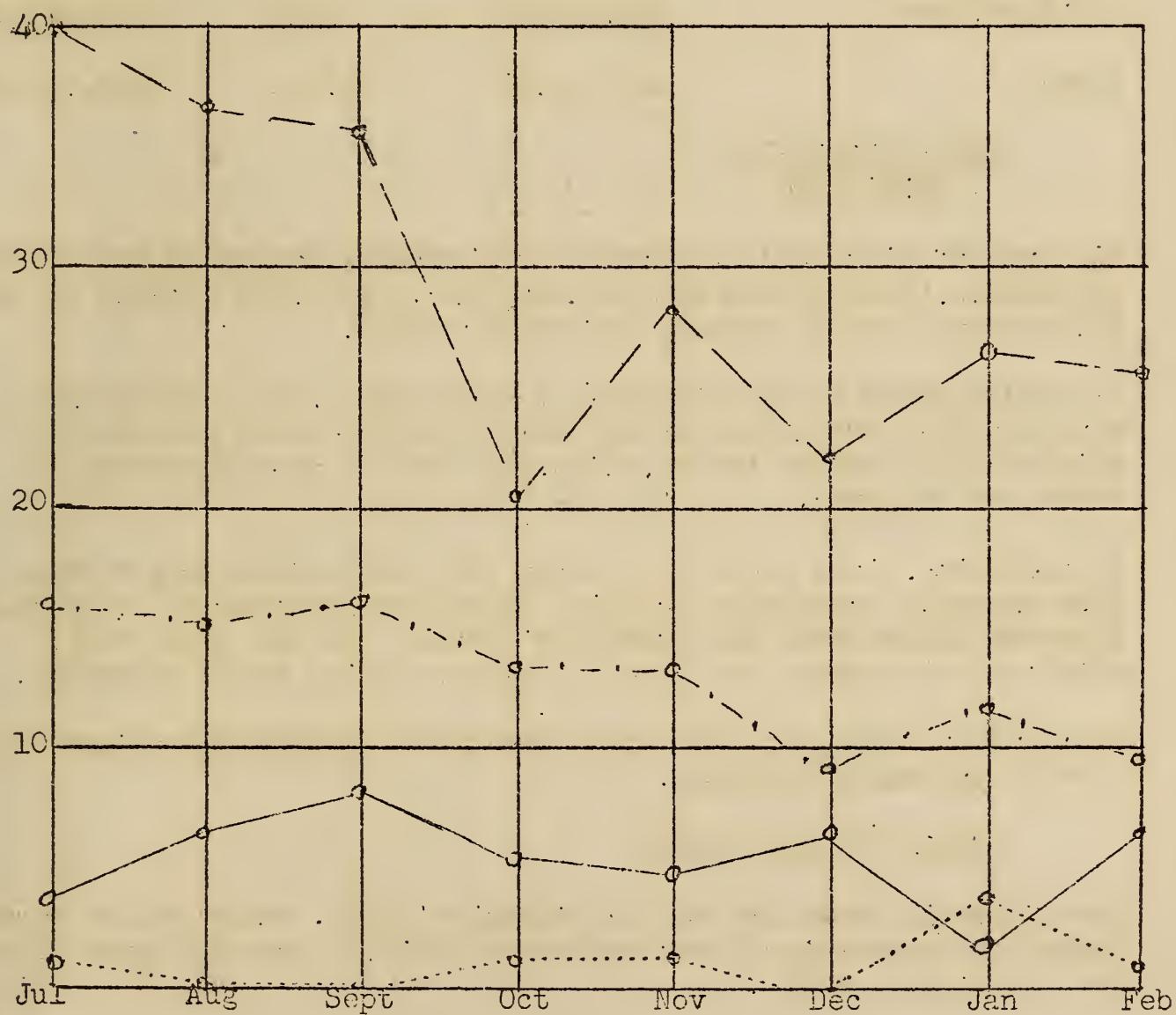
Region 3 extension directors, extension soil conservationists, and state coordinators met at Dayton, Ohio, on March 26 to discuss cooperation on districts between SCS and the Extension Service.

Notes were compared on the experience of both agencies with a view to extending soil conservation to more farmland in the Ohio Valley Region. The respective Washington offices were represented by I. L. Hobson, chief of the states relations division, and J. L. Boatman, chief of the division of subject matter.

SAFETY PROGRAM REPORT

The SCS accident frequency rate for combined CCC enrollees, WPA labor, and regular employees reached an all-time low in December 1939 with February 1940 coming a good second, reports H. C. Mesch, head of the safety and health section.

This downward trend is particularly significant, Mr. Mesch points out, because of the consolidation of 28,000 LU and drainage operations employees last July. Prior to the merger the accident frequency rate for these groups had been 2 to 2-1/2 times the frequency of SCS.



SCS Labor — CCC Enrollees ... SCS and CCC Supervisory ..... Office .....

Disabling injury experience of SCS was compared with a government organization of approximately the same severity rates for October, November and December 1939. The estimated cost and injuries are:

SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE	MAN-HOURS EXPOSURE	DISABLING INJURIES	APPROXIMATE COST
Reg. Employees	10,436,664	138	\$ 50,922.00
CCC Enrollees	<u>23,187,744</u>	287	<u>105,903.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>33,624,408</b>	<b>425</b>	<b>\$156,825.00</b>

#### OTHER ORGANIZATION

Reg. Employees	13,119,112	421	\$155,349.00
CCC Enrollees	<u>26,595,704</u>	<u>640</u>	<u>236,160.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>49,714,816</b>	<b>1,061</b>	<b>\$391,509.00</b>

#### SOIL IMPROVED BY GLASS WOOL

The use of glass wool to prevent soil erosion and speed the growth of plants, is disclosed in a patent (No. 2,192,939) awarded to James Slayter and John H. Thomas, of Newark, Ohio.

In places where it is difficult to grow grass, as on steep banks, mats of glass wool laid on the soil after the seeds have been planted will prevent water, wind, and birds from dispersing the seeds, it is said.

In addition, it is pointed out that the glass fibers may be made from minerals containing calcium, magnesium, phosphates, and other elements which speed the growth of plants. As the glass wool slowly disintegrates the growing plants utilize these elements.

The patent states that the mats protect the plants from frost and prevent too-early budding.

#### MISLAID LIBRARY BOOKS

The following books are on the "missing" list. Their return or information concerning their whereabouts will be greatly appreciated by the library staff.

Anderson, Ralph Oliver -- "Applied photogrammetry"  
Reed, Chester Albert -- "Flower guide."  
Taintor, Sarah Augusta -- "Secretary's Handbook"

### CCC CELEBRATES SEVENTH ANNIVERSARY

Nearly 600 members of Congress, CCC officials, and others celebrated the 7th anniversary banquet of the CCC at the Mayflower Hotel, Washington, on April 5. Chief H. H. Bennett and assistant chiefs F. J. Hopkins and H. D. Abbott were among SCS officials who attended.

The anniversary celebration in Washington was one of hundreds held throughout the country. Most of the camps held "open house" during which citizens of nearby communities visited the camps and inspected the work in progress.

### NOTES

C. W. Thorthwaite, head of the physiographic and climatic research division, organized a round table on the art of writing for all members of his staff who write or review manuscripts.

Russell Lord and Jack Fleming, special writers with the Department, and Ben Botkin, professor of English at University of Oklahoma, addressed the group and outlined some principles of good writing.

Here is a tip for all of you -- especially training officers.

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The Department of Agriculture and Forestry of the Union of South Africa has recently created a conservation division to be known as the Division of Soil and Veld Conservation. C. J. Ross, chief of the new division, obtained both his M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees at the University of Illinois where he specialized in agricultural chemistry and animal nutrition.

### CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS

The Civil Service Commission announces the following examinations: No. 28, unassembled, principal information specialist, \$5600, optional subjects (1) press and publications, (2) radio; No. 27, assembled, senior information specialist, information specialist, associate information specialist, and assistant information specialist, at salaries ranging from \$4600 to \$2600, with similar options broken down under such headings as agriculture, forestry, etc. Applications must be on file from the eleven westerly states by May 9; from all others by May 6.

Further details and information blanks may be obtained from the Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C.

APPROPRIATIONS

At this writing the agricultural appropriation bill is still in conference.

The CCC appropriation bill, providing for the retention of the present 1500 camps, has passed the House. It now awaits Senatorial action.